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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WISCASSET FIRE SOCIETY.

FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING, AUGUST 20, 1908.

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QUARTERLY MEETING

OF THE

Wiscasset Fire Society

WISCASSET, MAINE
Reprinted from THE SHEEPSCOT ECHO

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Wiscasset Fire Society.

Four Hundred and Thirty-first Quarterly Meeting.

Entertained at the home of Dr. B. A. Bailey.

The summer meeting of the Wiscasset Fire Society, being its four hundred and thirty-first quarterly meeting, was held at the home of Dr. B. A. Bailey, Elmsbrook Farms, on Thursday, the twentieth day of August, 1908. After transacting routine business, viewing the farms and enjoying the good cheer of Doctor Bailey's reception, the following mentioned members of the Society and guests gathered about his hospitable table: E. Fred Albee, George A. Armour, Bernard A. Bailey, James E. Ballard, Thomas Bowman, Edwin T. Fearing, Erastus Foote, Wilmot Wood Foote, John C. Grant, Horace E. Henderson, Sol Holbrook, William G. Hubbard, Charles E. Knight, Alfred H. Lennox, William D. Patterson, Winfield S. Peaslee, George M. Porter, Bradford C. Redonnett, Clarence A. Richards,

Carl M. Roeder, Henry E. Scott, Frederick W. Sewall, Alvin F. Sortwell, George B. Stark, Richard H. T. Taylor, William Taylor, Joseph P. Tucker.

Full justice was done to the excellent dinner from the products of Doctor Bailey's farms; and then cigars were lighted, and Doctor Bailey, in the capacity of moderator, said:

Members of the Wiscasset Fire Society and Invited Guests:

One year ago, by invitation of Mr. Scott, I spent one of the most enjoyable evenings of my life, one that made its most lasting impression upon my mind—never to be erased. And later in the year I was present at a meeting, attended by members of this Society, followed by a clambake, with our esteemed friend and member, Captain Taylor. Did ever corn taste so sweet? Or clams so nice? Captain Taylor an ideal host! Circumstances so shaped themselves that I was unable to meet with you at the several meetings when you were entertained by Mr. Bowman, by Mr. White and by Mr. Knight.

One of the prime features at Mr. Scott's dinner was, to my mind, a specially prepared paper by our clerk, Mr. Patterson. It would seem as if it were impossible to pick out such points of ancient history of the good old town of Wiscasset as were then present-

ed. The thoughts occasioned by that paper prompted me, and by consent, I now have the pleasure of calling upon my guest and our esteemed official of the Wiscasset Fire Society, Mr. William D. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson responded with a paper, saying:

Mr. Moderator and Gentlemen:

During the dinner, which we have all so thoroughly enjoyed, we have heard much said about water. In times of drought, in times of abundance, in season and out of season, we hear much of water. As members of the Wiscasset Fire Society we often have need of water. And here we find that one of the boundaries of the farms where we are now assembled is the stream of water known as Montsweag. The ancient inhabitants also applied this name to other waters in this vicinity, calling the waters from Oak Island up to the Mills "Monsweag little River," and from Oak Island up to Hooper's or Cowsegan Narrows "Monsweag Bay" and "Monsweag great River." The principal source of Montsweag Brook appears in some records as Montsweag Pond, situate southeasterly of Gardiner's Pond.

It is to some of the oldtime incidents and people connected with the waters of this name that I would now bespeak your attention. The earliest

record of a visit here by white men was that made on the sixth of July, 1605, when Champlain, the great French explorer, in his coasting voyage of that year along the shores of Maine, having concluded an amicable conference with Monthoumermer, an Indian chief, and twenty-five or thirty savages whom he met at or near Wiscasset, made the passage through Cowsegan Narrows and Montsweag great River and Bay, passing close by Hockomock Point, up through the Hell-gate, and so on to Merrymeeting Bay. His words, descriptive of the passage, are: "Passing by some islands each of the savages left an arrow near a cape by which all must pass; they believe that unless they do this the devil will bring about some misfortune; they live in this superstition as well as many others. Near this cape we passed a fall of water, but it was not done without great difficulty, for although we had a fair and fresh wind and carried all the sail we possibly could, we were obliged to take a a hawser ashore and fasten it to the trees and then pull with all our strength, and thus by main force and the favoring wind we got through. The savages who were with us carried their canoes along the shore, being unable to make headway with their paddles. After having passed the fall we saw beauti-

ful meadow lands. I was much astonished at this fall because we descended easily with the tide, but at the fall it was against us, but above the fall it ebbed as before much to our satisfaction." And so he passes on in his quaint little barque to those vast and nobler and well-nigh immortal achievements in the great North land, which have been so fittingly celebrated this year by our neighbors across the border.

Reference to various patents and grants of land in this vicinity proceeding from the English crown is not particularly made at this time, because actual occupation and improvement of the Montsweag region did not immediately occur. In 1639, John Brown, who in 1625 was distinguished as being the grantee named in a certain deed of land at Pemaquid and New Harbor signed by the celebrated Indian chief Samoset, which deed is believed to have been the first formally executed in New England, appears to have been residing at Nequasset; and he, together with Edward Bateman, also then lately from Pemaquid, were named as grantees in the deed from Mowhotiwormet of Nequasseg in America, Indian, commonly called by the name of Robin Hood, of "a Place or Seat of Ground commonly called as aforesaid by the Name of Nequasseg lying be-

tween the Bounds of Sacadiock River on the western side thereof and Sheepscutt River on the eastern side thereof one great Pond lying on the North Side thereof, and the River commonly called Nequasseg River on the Southwest Side thereof, with also one Wigwam or Indian House, as also all Grounds Woods Rivers and Fences thereunto belonging x x x lately in the Tenure and possession of Menywormet deceased, and now by succession and Inheritance the lawful Tenure of the said Mowhotiwormet or Robin Hood," also "free Liberty to build plant enclose empale fish, fowle, hawke and hunt within the Premises aforesaid, and the same to enjoy quietly and peaceably forever, without any let, molestation or disturbance whatsoever either by English or Indians." Within the limits of these bounds falls that portion of the Montsweag region lying below Long Ledge. Brown returned to Pemaquid about 1646, for in that year he conveyed his interest in the Nequasset purchase to Bateman, who a few years later conveyed to one James Cole.

The next of several documents relative to the occupation of land in the Sheepscot and Montsweag region, to which Robin Hood affixed his signum (usually of rude drawings of a savage, bow and arrow, and a deer,) to inter-

est us at this time reads as follows:

Anno Domini 1662, The 6th of February

The Condicon of this Obligation is such that ye said Reamegan, or otherways Robin Hood, Indian Sagamore have bargained & sould unto John Tucker Fisherman, now resident in Shipcot River all the Lands from the Notherly side of Munsweeks great River up alongst the main River as far as Cowsegon, being as far as Thomas Cleves Lease runs down the River, and so to run four miles due North from ye main river of Cowsegon, being called by the English the lower Narrows wth all the priviledges of Timber, Marsh or Marshes, fresh or Salt, wth all the priviledges of ye two Rivers called the Munsweegs. Witness yt ye said Robin Hood for and in consideration do give unto ye said John Tucker Quiet possession from any Man either Indian or English without any Intanglements by Lease, Grant, or by any other way by the (said) Robin Hood or his; and the said John Tucker to enjoy the said Lands peaceably with all other priviledges above mentioned to ye said Tucker his heirs —or Assigns for——— And for the true performance hereof I the sd Robin Hood and my Son doth bind ourselves our heirs executors or as-

signs for the true performance whereof. Witness our hands ye year said 1662.

The Mark of

Robin Hood ●

Sealed & Delivered in ye presence of us

The mark of John Mason Ω

Thomas Gint *T*

The Mark of Elizabeth Є Gint

The phraseology of these ancient frontier deeds is so quaint and interesting that they have been quoted at some length. From these two Indian grants, and from those of land at Wiscasset and Montsweag given by Robin Hood and other Indian sagamores to George Davie, and the occupation of the lands thereunder, sprung rival claims by those who purchased of the heirs of the several grantees and those claiming under them. A portion of the Montsweag lands also fell within the limits of the Kennebec Parchase from the Colony of New Plymorth, to which colony was granted a tract of land of many miles in extent on either side of the Kennebec River by the Great Council for New England in 1629-30.

All such conflicting claims became, in the succeeding century, the basis of numerous law suits and for many years there appeared on the dockets of

courts here having jurisdiction of real actions the titles of the actions brought for possession of the Montsweag lands, and the court rooms were thronged with anxious parties,well known lawyers and ancient witnesses, and the eyes of counsel were worn in puzzling over the crabbed chirography of time worn documents. So critical did the situation of some of the inhabitants become, as regards the title and possession of their farms, that in 1773 Aaron Abbot, David Farnham, Simon Farnham, Joseph Foster, Samuel Greenleaf, Ebenezer Greenleaf, Thomas Sloman, Richard Greenleaf, John Card, Samuel Farnham, John Bayley, Andrew Walker, Solomon Walker, Jr., Nathaniel Williams, Timothy Williams, John Cook and Benjamin Shaw signed a petition to Governor Hutchinson and the General Court assembled in May, stating "That from thirtey five years Past & downward to twenty five yr Petitioners Settled in Woolwich now called as true Subjects of our king * * We with great difficulty defended this land with ye cost of ye lives of Some of our friends & ye Loss of our buildings & Got our bread sword in hand till Canada was Subdued after that we enjoyed a little Peace for a Short Space of time which time we Improved in Clearing our lands & Erecting of us Necessarey buildings Clearing &

making Nessarey and Convenient Roads built a meeting house & Settled a minister all this being done with a Great Expence for an Infant People;" they next set forth at considerable length the proceedings in court for judgments against them for possession of their lands and pray that they may be quited in their possessions.

The earliest attempt at occupation of the Montsweag region in the period of re-settlement was made in 1734, when Samuel Denny, the agent of the Company holding under the Indian grants to George Davie, went with men in the month of March and built a umber house on the eastern side of Montsweag falls and fenced it and the falls on that side and also planted some potatoes and sowed some peas as an act of possession. And in the fall of that year or the following year—the testimony in conflicting—Christopher Toppan, of Newbury, Massachusetts, who had purchased of a descendant of Tucker, also named John Tucker, the full tract included in Robin Hood's deed of 1662, caused a double saw mill to be erected at the place where for many years the Hiltons subsequently had mills. The circumstances under which the Hiltons were induced to undertake bringing forward the settlement under Toppan are so well told in the deposition of Mrs. Mary

Savage, daughter of Ebenezer Hilton, and wife of James Savage, that you will no doubt be interested to hear it. In 1787 she testified:

"I Mary Savage testifie and say that about fortynine or fifty years ago I came from Berwick with my father Mr. Ebenezer Hilton and the Rest of our family in a vessel which was sent by Mr. Christopher Toppan of Newberey as I was told and landed at a place Caled Mounsweag on a track of of land Called Toppans Right now in Pownalborough and my father and Mr. James Grant improved a Double Saw Mill belonging to sd Toppan, which mill appeared to have been built some years before, which mill stood in the same place where now stands the mill belonging to the hiltons and others, my father told me that for his encouragement Mr. Toppan promised to Give him one hundred Acres of Land for himself and fifty acres for each of his sons, and accordingly he Got his hundred Acres for himself and five of his sons have got theirs, and lives on s'd lands, and my Brothers William and Moses Lives on the hundred acres that belonged to my father, and Mr. James Grant improved s'd mills under Mr. Toppan till the Indians made war, my father and Mr. James Grant and others built a Garrison, and lived in s'd Garrison till the

indians killed my father, I then lived in s'd Garrison and saw the indians when they Run out of my fathers barn & took my brother William and soon after I saw them Killing my father, they shot and wounded him and saw them striking at him with their Hatchets, I saw him fall and saw him no more till he was brought in Dead Sculped, and much mortified, my eldest brother Joshua was shot at the same time and mortaly wounded as he was Runing to the Garison, and Died two Days after, my brother in law John Boyinton was Killed at the same time, my Brothers William and Moses have lived on s'd place ever since, Except a small time when they were forced to leave the place by Reason of the war, I was about sixteen years old when I Came Down with my father from berwick & Ever since I have heard s'd trackt of Land Called Toppans Right, the above Bloody transaction was Comited on the Lot Mr. Toppan gave my father."

We have seen that these lands attracted two of the early English settlers of the Pemaquid district; but John Brown and Edward Bateman were not the only residents of that section to remove to Montsweag lands. James Phips, who came from Bristol, England, and who, it is stated, had pursued the trade of a gunsmith at

Pemaquid Fort, came hence with his family in the seventeenth century and settled upon that projecting tract of land at the utmost southern limits of Montsweag which is still known as Phips's Point. At that pioneer homestead was reared that remarkable man, who, to use the words of that entertaining writer, Dr. Cotton Mather, was "made by the God of Heaven as great a blessing to New England as that country could have had if they themselves had pleased. His fruitful mother had no less than twenty-six children, where of twenty-one were sons, but equivalent to them all was William, one of the youngest, whom his father, dying, left young with his mother, and with her he lived, 'keeping sheep in the wilderness,' until he was eighteen years old."

From these small beginnings William Phips rose to a position of eminence and influence in New England, where his services were of inestimable value. In 1676, having just completed a ship in these Sheepscot waters and being about to take her to Boston for delivery to the persons with whom he had contracted for her construction, he was able to give passage to the residents of this region fleeing from the horrors of the first Indian warfare which the settlers here suffered. A few years later he is seen entering the port of

London with a cargo of silver, gold and jewels of the value of £300,000 which he had recovered from the wreck of a treasure ship sunk in West Indian waters; and in consideration of his having brought so large a treasure into the kingdom he was knighted at Windsor Castle in June, 1687. Refusing a command offered to him by the commissioners of the royal navy, he generously replied to the king, who gave Sir William an opportunity to ask what he pleased of him, "that he prayed for nothing but this, 'that New England might have its lost privileges restored.' The king then replied: 'Anything but that.' He next petitioned the king to be appointed high sheriff of that country, hoping by his deputies in that office to supply the country with conscientious juries. This office he obtained, and with his commission returned to Boston, in the summer of 1688, after an absence of five years." Later he is seen in command of naval expeditions sent out by Massachusetts against the French at the eastward and at Quebec. In 1691 he again visits London, as an agent of Massachusetts and on the 14th of May, 1692, he arrived at Boston with the new charter granted by William and Mary to the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and on the 16th took the oath of office of Governor to

which he had been appointed under this charter. His name will ever have a place on the pages of the history and romance of our beautiful coast.

The name of another Governor of the Province is connected with Montsweag lands. When this Society was instituted our town still bore the sonorous name of Pownalborough, which had been conferred upon it at its incorporation in honor of Thomas Pownall, the then able, energetic and popular Governor of Massachusetts. The Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase on the 14th of May, 1760, in "Consideration of his promoting & Encouraging the Settlements in the Eastern Country," complimented Pownall with a grant of five hundred acres of their wild lands situate in Pownalborough. Pownall was for many years an active participant in colonial affairs, and thus acquired a knowledge of conditions which combined with sound judgment and wise and liberal views of the measures best calculated for their successful administration put him in the forefront as a colonial statesman. He was a warm friend of the Colonies in their struggle for independence, and retired from Parliament because a bill which he introduced in 1781 to empower the king to make a treaty of peace or truce with America, was opposed by Lord North and the Tories.

April, 1778, he wrote his friend James Bowdoin, of his intention of giving his Pownalborough lands to Harvard College; and in February, 1782, he executed a deed of the same, having for its object "a Professorship of political law, as derived from God and the nature of man, to form the minds of the students, so that they may become efficient members of a free state." "This foundation," says President Quincy, "proved altogether ineffectual for the object purposed by the friendly donor. The lands had, during the American war, without his knowledge, been sold for taxes, and after great trouble and expense in redeeming and getting possession of them, the produce of their sale but little exceeded three hundred dollars." It is an interesting fact that Joseph Christophers, whose name appears as No. 1 of the list of members of this Society, held the tax title. There exists a copy of a quaint old plan of the College lot, as it was called for many years, made by John S. Foye, who also participated in the institution of this Society. The land is located near the source of Montsweag Brook, the winding course of which through the lot in delineated on the plan as "mountswigg brook."

The time at our disposal this evening will not admit further tracing the occupation and settlement of the lands

at Montsweag. A glance, however, at the part taken by some of its people in the Revolutionary War may be had.

It was at the height of the summer season of the year 1777 that Sir George Collier, commodore commanding the British fleet in the Gulf of Maine, cruising westward from Machias, on board his flag ship, the "Rainbow," "picked up at sea in an open boat, making his escape from the rebel coast," a "Mr. Goldthwayte" whom he described as "having lived a merchant at Witchcastle, a town not far distant" The full name of this individual does not any where appear in the chronicle of commodore Collier's visit to Sheepscot waters. Certain recorded events and incidents in the life of Capt. Philip Goldthwait identify him as the person referred to in that chronicle.

Philip Goldthwait, son of Joseph and Mary (Lewis) Goldthwait, was born at Boston, 1733, March 27. He was in the class of 1741 of the Boston Latin School. He was twice married: first, to Mary, the youngest daughter of Capt. Samuel Jordan, of Saco; second, to Mrs. Abigail Dyer, of Biddeford, in 1762, December 17. In the "Loyalists of the American Revolution" a brief sketch of Philip Goldthwait is given by Sabine, who says: "He was an officer of the Customs, and lived at Winter Harbor. As soon as the war com-

menced, he placed himself under British protection at Boston."

Of Goldthwait's residence at Winter Harbor we have evidence in the record of a deed [Lincoln Deeds, IX, 210] from Gershom Rogers to Francis Gould and Robert Shaw, two Boston worthies, of a "tract of land lying in a place called Gouldsborough Number three eastward of Union River, with a Dwelling House, Barn and all other Privileges & appurtenances thereunto belonging being lately occupied by Philip Goldthwait." The deed was dated 18 June, 1768; but it is impossible to determine the length of Goldthwait's residence at Winter Harbor.

The Goldthwait family has had many representatives in the public service. Philip's father, Colonel Joseph Goldthwait, and his uncle, Major Benjamin Goldthwait, were notable as soldiers in the Louisbourg and Crown Point expeditions. Another of Philip's uncles, Colonel Thomas Goldthwait, an able military officer, was for many years in command of Fort Pownall at the Penobscot and was a justice of His Majesty's Inferior Court of Common Pleas for our own County of Lincoln, having been appointed as such upon the death of the venerable Judge Samuel Denny. Ezekiel Goldthwait, brother of Colonel Goldthwait, was for twenty years town clerk of Boston and

register of deeds in Suffolk County for thirty-five years. Philip's brother, Major Joseph Goldthwait, was long in the provincial service and was commissary and barrack master of the king's troops in Boston during the siege of that town.

Major Joseph Goldthwait was reputed to be a man of wealth. He had no children. He appears as the benefactor of his brother Philip, for in 1773 he purchased of Samuel Stinson, of Woolwich, a tract of land situate on the western side of Montsweag river and bounded thereon, and which soon became the place of the home of Philip. Of the life of Philip and Abigail Goldthwait and their young children at Montsweag there are few scattered records. There is no local record that he or any other of the family had "lived as a merchant at Witchcastle," (Wiscasset), as stated in the chronicle of Commodore Collier's naval operations. Neither have we any record of his usual occupation during his residence in this vicinity. The Woolwich church records, kept by the Rev. Josiah Winship, contain this death entry: "A Child, of Mr: Gooldthrite's (*sine nomine*) December 4, 1774.

At Portsmouth, N. H., on the 23rd of November, 1775, Capt. Philip Goldthwait was brought before the Committee of Correspondence and

Safety "on suspicion of being unfriendly to the liberties of America," and the record is, "upon examination; nothing appearing against him; Ordered, that he be discharged." [Am. Arch. IV :5.] Upon what authority Sabine's statement was made that Captain Goldthwait placed himself under the protection of the British at Boston does not appear. His brother Joseph, the barrack master, who was there throughout the siege, accompanied the troops to Halifax and was later for some time in New York, in the suburbs of which city he died in 1779.

A memorandum providing for the disposal of his estate made by him Feb. 11, 1778, recorded folio 518, Collins, at Somerset House, London, contains the following provisions for the benefit of Philip and his family: "To Joseph Goldthwait, my nephew, son of my brother Philip, my farm at Woolwich in Sheepscot river, Province of Mafs. Bay, on which his father lives, he to take pofsefsion of it at 21, unlefs his father chooses to remain on it, then his father to pay him £100 sterling, & to keep the farm for himself & heirs; but if my nephew has been a Rebbel & borne arms against his King, then this to be void, & the estate to go to his father to do as he pleases." * * * "I do further order that if my brother Philip should not keep pofsefsion of

the farm at Woolwich, then he is to receive the sum of £500 to purchase a farm where he pleases, to enable him to live comfortably & bring up his children; this farm to be divided after his decease among his children (except Joseph, who is already provided for), they taking care to provide for the widow of my said brother, if she be living." Whether Philip received the bequest of money from his brother's estate is not known, but it is unlikely that any part of it ever was received by him, as the barrack master's estate had been confiscated by the Massachusetts government. It is known that he did not "keep posſesſion of the farm at Woolwich." When Major Goldthwait purchased that farm in 1773 he gave his bond to Samuel Stinson to pay the sum of £51:13:4 and interest by the 8th of December, 1774, and a like sum by the 8th of December, 1775, secured by a mortgage on the farm which is described as 'the Northern half part of Lot of Land containing One hundred Acres be it more or less, it being Lott No. four in the first division of Lands in said Woolwhich, bounded Easterly on Monswegue River; Southerly on Lott No. three; Northerly on Lott No. five, and Westerly on the undivided Lands." An endorsement on the back of the bond made by William Colman "for

Mr. Sam'l Stinson" dated Boston, Dec. 17, 1774, acknowledged payment by Joseph Goldthwait of £54 :13 :4. On the 7th of May, 1777, the remainder due upon the bond remaining unpaid, Stinson begun his action for possession of the land against Philip who was then in occupation of it and at the Inferior Court of Common Pleas held at Pownalborough on the last Tuesday of September in that year it was decreed that the defendant, Philip, or Joseph Goldthwait pay £63 :11 :4 within two months or that the plaintiff recover possession of the premises demanded and costs. A writ of possession was duly issued from the office of Jonathan Bowman, the clerk of the Court, on the 15th of December following. At the June, 1778, term of the court upon representation that the former writ had been lost it was ordered that another be issued, by virtue of which on the 19th of June, 1778, Sheriff Cushing caused Stinson to have possession of the premises "together with the Dwelling House standing on the same." He also received the costs and returned the execution fully satisfied to the acceptance of Stinson as appears by his receipt thereon.

During the pendency of Stinson's suit and in August, 1777, occurred Goldthwait's adventure at sea and subsequent detention at Townsend and

the contention in relation thereto between Sir George Collier, in command of His Majesty's fleet, and the Rev. John Murray, representing the citizens of Townsend. The "Rainbow" lay at anchor in Boothbay Harbor for several days, and the extended correspondence between Commodore Collier and the Rev. Mr. Murray, copied entire in the narrative of the operations of the British fleet on this coast, indicates that the Presbyterian minister was more than a match in argument for the naval officer. Goldthwait having volunteered to accompany a party from the ship in disguise to learn whether there was anything in the neighborhood "worth the hazard of attempting," which party having been captured and taken on shore, but subsequently released, all, excepting Goldthwait, were returned to the ship. He was detained upon suspicion of being inimicial to the government until upon threat by Collier of the destruction of the town in event of failure to comply with his demand for Goldthwait's instant release he, too, was permitted to return to the ship, which presumably occurred within the half hour allowed by the British commander. Goldthwait is said to have been filled with a terror that "exceeded description, being convinced that if the Rainbow had sailed without him,

nothing could have prevented his being hanged by the rebels." But the liberation of Goldthwait did not end the controversy over him, for in the spirited correspondence relating to the exchange of prisoners Sir George, in the postscript to a letter addressed to Murray on the 29th of August, stated that "Mr. Goldthwayte is no officer, but a pafsenger." Murray's reply, dated the 30th contains the following:

"You declare Mr. Goldwayte only a 'passenger'; if so, your peremptory demand that this town shall instantly deliver him to you without any condition or cause alleged, will be publicly understood as a requisition for sending on board your ship a free citizen, and one of our brethren, without any stipulation; and this people's compliance with that demand will be interpreted as betraying a member of the community, who was entitled to the protection of the law, and so (constructively), a conspiring with its enemies against the safety of the state."

(Signed) JOHN MURRAY.

In reply to which Sir George sent another long letter, extracts from which are:

"Rainbow, Townsend Harbour,
1 Sep 1777.

"Sir:—

* * * When I told you in my

last letter that I could not comprehend your discrimination between prisoners, and prisoners of war I certainly could never mean any other prisoners than such as are belonging to a country at War with Great Britain. Your explanation, therefore, of 'prisoners of law,' and 'prisoners of state,' was extremely unnecefsary.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"I repeat again, that Mr. Goldthwayte was only a passenger; but Mr. Goldthwayte is a faithful subject of his Majesty, and as such I demanded his release; I will, however, to save your town from the resentment you seem to apprehend, consent to give a petty officer in exchange for Mr. Goldthwayte as soon as it is possible for me to do so, by having one in my possession.

"The part of your committee who attended me yesterday, seem to allow but six men out of the whole number I sent on shore to be eligible for exchanging against the eight returned me; I think very differently; yet willing to gratify the inhabitants of Townsend, for their peaceable behavior since His Majesty's ships have been here, I will consent to liberate two other prisoners as soon as I return to Halifax.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"Notwithstanding instances which

have occasioned me just cause for displeasure, I desire that yourself and the other inhabitants of Townsend, will remember, and do justice to the kindneſs and forbearance with which you have been treated since the Rainbow has lain here, in which time not an injury of the smallest kind has been sustained by any individual.

"I am, sir, your humble servant,

GEORGE COLLIER.

"Rev. Mr. Murray."

In gathering the records of the facts concerning Philip Goldthwait here presented, aid has been gratefully received from Captain Robert Goldthwait Carter, of the United States Army, a native of Maine, who has devoted much time to the preservation of the military history of the several members of the Goldthwait family herein mentioned, and it is the opinion of Captain Carter that Captain Philip Goldthwait was left at Halifax upon Commodore Collier's return to that port within a few days after the incidents at Townsend, and that he soon afterward sailed thence for England, for his name does not appear in the narrative of the subsequent movements of the British fleet.

While it is more than probable that when Philip Goldthwait departed from this vicinity under the circumstances herein related he left his family with

but small means of support, there is record of but one suit at law having been afterwards brought against him in this county. Joseph Mains, of Woolwich, had a few months before sold to Goldthwait a "yoak of Oxen" and on the second of September he begun a suit against Goldthwait in the Common Pleas Court alleging that on account of such sale "the said Philip by mistake paid to the Plaintiff a counterfeit forty shilling bill made in imitation of the forty shilling bills ifsued by the State of New Hampshire for a good bill," and supported the allegation by the following oath :

Woolwich June ye 30 1777

This Day Joseph Mains Parsonly appeared and made oath That he Recived a forty shilling Hampshire Bill No. 3332 that would not Pas of Philip Gouldthright

before me

SAM^{LL} HARNDEN, Jus^{t} Peace.

On the writ in this action the officer attached a cow belonging to Goldthwait. Judgment was recovered and presumably enforced.

Captain Goldthwait's family appear to have remained at Montsweag for more than eighteen months after his flight. We have seen that Samuel Stinson did not take possession of the farm until the summer of 1778 and from the record of a writ in the Com-

mon Pleas Court in this county it is inferred that the Goldthwait family may have remained upon the farm until March, 1779, when they removed to Winter Harbor as appears in an account in favor of James Smith against Samuel Stinson and Joshua Farnham, all of Woolwich, which is stated as follows:

March 1779	For caring Mrs. Goldthrite to Winter Harbor and bording of her and five children on the pafsage from March 19 to April the 7 six in the hole famely at 30 shillings a day each	£171
	to landing of the famely and goods	30
		£201

A time of inflated currency.

The fact that Mrs. Goldthwait was very poor at the date of her departure from Woolwich, is indicated by the action brought by Smith against Stinson and Farnham, both neighbors of Mrs. Goldthwait, they two having probably become responsible for her passage and freight.

Stinson and Farnham asked the town to reimburse them for this expense, and Woolwich records show that in 1781 the town refused an allowance therefor; but at the annual meeting in

March, 1782, the town "Voted Joshua Farnham for removing Mrs. Goldthrwight and her family to winter harbour in full 3-0-0."

We have seen that the farm at Gouldsborough that had been occupied by Captain Goldthwait was sold to Shaw and Gould. These men were largely interested in lands in Gouldsborough and from Gould the town took its name. After a time Gould failed in business and his interest in the lands was acquired by Shaw. At the sale of the Shaw lands in 1792 by his widow and administratrix a certain tract at Gouldsborough was then still known as the "Goldthwait Farm," and it may be that it came about that Philip Goldthwait's wife after her return to Winter Harbor again occupied the old farm which had been the home of her early married life. In this search the only record found of her, subsequent to her landing at Winter Harbor at the end of the nineteen days passage from Montsweag in the early spring of 1779, is that of her death on the 22nd of February, 1832.

After holding title and possession of the Goldthwait farm at Montsweag until 1784, Stinson conveyed the same to Michael Ryan, who it appears was unable to keep it and re-conveyed it to Stinson in 1790, when Stinson found a purchaser in Richard Honeywell and

title and possession have remained in that family until this day.

Regarding the life of Capt. Philip Goldthwait but little more is found. In a letter written by Miss Hannah Gowen, his niece, in October, 1862, she says that after her uncle went to England he "bought an annuity in the King's Household, and became one of the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber. And when my father was in London he attended a christening of one of the Royal Babies with my uncle." As Miss Gowen was then 86 years of age it is probable that her recollection of details was not entirely accurate, but from what she wrote it appears that her uncle's loyalty was recognized and rewarded after his arrival in England. How long he remained there has not been ascertained. On the tenth of October, 1786, Edward Dawes, of Boston, as appointed administrator of the estate of Philip Goldthwait, mariner. And this is the last record we have relating to one whose name was for a brief period connected with Montsweag waters, and whose loyalty to his king, actuated by a devoted idealism as pure and lofty as that which brought his ancestors, the Pilgrims, to Massachusetts, resulted in separation from wife and children and in loss of home.

Philip Goldthwait, a son of Captain

Philip Goldthwait, enlisted in the Revolutionary army in 1775, when eighteen years of age, and served throughout the war. That patriotic service was subsequently recognized by his appointment to the position of keeper of the light house on Wood Island, where he continued for something like forty years.

The month following Captain Goldthwait's experiences at Townsend was made notable in the history of Wiscasset by the attempt of a force of men from the "Rainbow" to capture and take out a mast ship that was being loaded on the main river above Flying Point. The attempt was unsuccessful, the British having been repulsed by the vigorous action of the local militia. On the muster rolls of those engaged in that service appear the names of the following Montsweag men under command of Capt. Solomon Walker: William Holman, Aaron Abbot, David McKenney, William Hilton, John Hilton, Jr., Ebenezer Hilton, Solomon Walker, Jr. To trace the experiences of those oldtime residents of Montsweag would take more time than can now be taken. Some of the incidents of their lives may be familiar to some of you who have heard from the lips of their descendants stories of the pioneers.

An interesting chapter of the history

of the Montsweag might be made from the records relative to the various ancient mill-sites there located, their owners, and the circumstances under which improved. Since the establishment of Toppan's mill at Montsweag falls there has probably been no considerable time when some small mill has not been in operation for a part of each year. But of these industries and the people identified with them there is not now time to relate.

The Moderator.

We have with us this evening representative men of various vocations. One gentleman, whose mind is as the burbling brook in the dense forest, clear and silent; but when stimulated to action, and he allows the hammer of thought to come down upon the anvil of his mind sparks of wit are sure to fly, I now take pleasure in introducing to you, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott's remarks were in substance as follows:—

Mr. Moderator:

A week or two ago I met Dr Bailey, and he told me to study up Shakespeare and Boswell's Life of Johnson as a preparation for the exercises of this evening; but I thought that the members of the Society had heard often enough from me in recent years, and moreover, I have left my copy of Shakespeare in my Massachusetts

home and I never owned Boswell's Johnson. So it happens that I have come out here tonight, to use a nautical expression, in ballast, and what I shall say will be entirely extemporaneous. However, as I have been sitting here, with these genial friends, I have been drinking in inspiration from this rural scene. If the church had not been burned, we might have heard the curfew tolling the knell of parting day. Yonder the lowing herds were winding slowly o'er the lea. If I had attempted to wander about the farm, I am sure that I should have pitched straight into Dr. Bailey's "old oaken bucket."

In Article 1 of the "Rules and Articles of the Wiscasset Fire Society" we read that one of the objects of this organization, one of the objects of its members, is "on all occasions to promote the interest, happiness and prosperity of each other." This we can do in many ways. We are doing it when we meet in these joyful reunions and take part in these festivities. We are also carrying out in part the mission of this society when we do anything to improve the condition of this community. One piece of work which we might well take in hand is to see that the old cemetery on Federal street is kept in a proper condition. A Boston paper the other day published

a complaint from some one who had visited Old York in this state and had found the ancient burying ground there shamefully neglected. Gravestones were overthrown or broken, and inscriptions were hidden by the weeds and moss. To some extent this complaint might hold good for our old Wiscasset burying ground, and this society would be doing a service to the community by rescuing from neglect the resting place of so many of the early inhabitants of the town.

The events of this last year here in Wiscasset have shown also the need of keeping up an agitation for the establishment of a water system of some sort. In this work the Wiscasset Fire Society should lead the way. By promoting such objects as I have indicated we shall help to carry out the mission of the society and we shall make this town a better place to live in, both for ourselves and for our posterity.

The Moderator.

The meetings of the Wiscasset Fire Society always tend to the bringing up of recollections of our boyhood days; and this picture presents itself to my mind as I am taken back to my early boyhood: Oh! how well do I remember the quiet summer evenings, when a barefoot boy,—the old home, the myriad notes of music from yonder

brooks and meadows,—the very frogs seemed exhilarated to sing by the serenity—, as I stand there by the corner of the old home, the dwelling of five generations, where I hear the soft, sweet peal of the old Congregational Church bell coming measured and slow upon the quiet evening atmosphere. Ah! boyhood days! Friends have gone. Church has gone. And the old bell has gone. But the sweet memory remains, and I hear the evening vespers now, as sweet as then, coming softly, stealing the way down through thirty years of the past, calling the worshippers to prayer. May they never fade from my memory! The scene is held sacred within the confines of my mind. We cannot replace the old church—a relique. We cannot duplicate it unassisted, but our friend, a former schoolboy of Wiscasset, has from his ample store provided such a sum as will insure the re-building of the church. And in the spring of 1909 the youths of this section can stand, as I stood thirty years ago, and hear the sacred tones of a new church bell. As you all well know, I refer to none other than Erastus Foote who, I trust, will now inform us as to the progress that has been made towards re-building the church.

Mr. Foote responded briefly, and called upon Mr. Frederick W. Sewall,

of the committee having matter in charge, for a statement of what had been done, whereupon Mr. Sewall reported as follows:

Mr. Moderator and Gentlemen:

I think our esteemed friend Mr. Foote is rather shirking responsibility, as the committee have availed themselves of his views and ideas from the beginning so he must and does know all I can tell you, but Mr. Foote is too modest to tell the whole story himself for we all know without his generous aid and that of his immediate family and relatives the rebuilding of the house of the Lord in the manner desired would have been impossible, as their contributions amounted to a large per cent. of the total subscribed. The church was burned Dec. 21, 1907, together with organ,a fine old instrument built by Stevens at Cambridgeport and put in in 1849,and Paul Revere bell, this bell being one of the three known to exist from the famous foundry of Paul Revere & Sons. We were able to save some siderable amount of the bell metal. Correspondence with the bell founders assure us that they will cast this metal into a new bell by means of which we shall be able to perpetuate its historic value. After many meetings the Parish decided to rebuild along the same line, as the original structure if it could be done without creating a debt. Sub-

scription papers were taken by Miss Emma T. Clapp, Miss Carrie S. Knight, Miss Alice D. Taylor, Mrs. Archie H. Dodge, Mrs. Roy W. Reed and myself and a united effort made to raise the needed funds. The response was most generous, nearly one hundred and fifty persons subscribed to those papers the aggregate amount of which was thought sufficient to warrant a contract being made. Mr. John Calvin Stevens, a well known Portland architect, had drawn plans satisfactory to the committee and under his supervision for bids for building complete (except bell and organ) varying in amount from $7885 to $10,581 were opened July 18th. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, Mr. A. F. Warren of Auburn.

Mr. Grant then interrupted Mr. Sewall's remarks to say: "Mr. George A. Armour of Princeton, N. J., who is present as an honored guest has just handed me a card of subscription for rebuilding the Wiscasset Church. The card reads as follows:

'Mr. Erastus Foote, Senior
by George A. Armour
$500.'"

This unexpected addition to the building fund was greatly appreciated and thankfully acknowledged. The delicate and gracious tribute paid to Mr. Foote by his son-in-law was met

with a hearty response from every member of the Society which has had in its rolls three generations of the Foote family, all of the same name, Erastus Foote.

Continuing Mr. Sewall said: I am sure the church and parish will appreciate this generous offering for it assures the building complete without incumbrance. I think Mr. Moderator I have given the information which you and Mr. Foote called for.

Mr. Sewall's report was listened to with much interest.

The moderator next introduced Hon. Alvin F. Sortwell, who referred to the condition of the Ancient Cemetery, which had been mentioned by Mr. Scott, and asked that the Society appoint a committee to cause a survey and plan of the cemetery and a complete transcription of the gravestone inscriptions to be made, and offered to pay the expense of so doing. He further suggested certain work which might be done for the improvement of the condition of the cemetery, the same to be taken under further consideration.

The Moderator.

I think that one of the first signs of the uplifting of the social conditions in our town is the fact of our awakening and turning our attention to the sacred dwelling places of our dead, for what

we enjoy now in a great measure is due to their hard work and industry. I will appoint as a committee for the purpose suggested by Mr. Sortwell and to confer with him thereon, Messrs. Patterson, Hubbard and Smith.

Of the boys who have gone out from our village many have succeeded in various ways, some have become financial giants, others have climbed as high by their professional ability. It is but twenty-five years ago, as I remember, when looking out of the window at my old home one Friday afternoon at five o'clock I saw a shadow or some strange black shape pass almost instantaneously. A week later at the same hour I witnessed the same apparition. One week from that date, boylike, I took a position at a respectful distance from the road with a firm determination of solving that mystery, if possible. At the regular hour there came tearing down the road, head thrown back, hatless, coatless, fists clenched, nostrils dilated, eyes fixed on a distant object in space, Horace Henderson, *running* from Bath to Wiscasset. This was my first knowledge of the gentlemen whom I now introduce to you.

Mr. Henderson apologized for having nothing new to present to the Society; he had come, like many others, to seek rest and pleasure among the

scenes of his boyhood, and his mind naturally reverted to the early occurrences that more than a few of the gentlemen present had participated in. Hence he feared that in his remarks from year to year, at the annual summer supper might be found a similarity that would be fatal if subjected to the test of the deadly parallel. One subject, however, he desired to present to the attention of the Society; that was the urgent need of action to preserve the one important historic landmark of our vicinity—the Old Fort. He spoke of the neglect of the government and the vain attempts to enlist the interest of the national authorities, and recalled what had been done by private individuals to preserve the place so dear to the memory of all in the vicinity. It was most fitting that this, the oldest organization of its kind in the state, should be instrumental in preserving for future generations this fine specimen of the military construction of the early days of the Republic, and he urged immediate action on the part of the society.

The remarks of Mr. Henderson were followed by statements from other members of the Society, including a committee appointed at the last October meeting to bring the condition of the blockhouse to the attention of the Government, some of whom ex-

pressed hope of securing an appropriation for its repair and preservation.

Prof. Carl Rœder, of New York, a guest of Doctor Bailey, was also an invited guest of the Society, and during the evening he added greatly to the enjoyment of its members by his superb playing upon the piano. With an outburst of applause following the rendition of a transcription by Liszt, Prof. Rœder again responded with a rare musical treat of the highest order. Seldom do we have an opportunity of listening to one who has reached national fame not only as a performer but as an instructor.

The Moderator.

After attentive listening to the beautiful selections, and having our minds still seated in the realms of the sublime, it must of necessity put the next speaker at a disadvantage and there is one only having oratory powers sufficient to take us noiselessly by the hand and continue our journey. Music and Poetry go hand in hand. We commend ourselves to your guidance, Mr. Grant. Mr. Grant said:

Mr. Moderator and Gentlemen:

This is the fifth summer meeting in that almost historic series which was inaugurated at the Governor Smith house under the genial auspices of our honored and deeply lamented friend Mr. Prentiss. On these occasions of joy

and gladness it has been my privilege to say a word, though it has not always been easy on account of Captain Ballard's interruptions. I think however that tonight he will be considerate and will not disturb me. Still I rise with no little embarrassment, first because I can hope neither to amuse nor to instruct, and, secondly, because I am conscious of the change which my relation to this honorable body has undergone since that strange stray thunderbolt, guided by a wise but inscrutable Providence, struck the bird house on our barn.

I have often dwelt on the perfections of this place, and have long since adopted as my motto Mr. Foote's eloquent words, "Wiscasset, Maine, is good enough for me." Wiscasset,maker and preserver of good clean history; peerless for its air, water, sky and scenery; cradle of young men and women of high estate and of no estate who have gone forth into lives of greatest usefulness. But in the midst of all this perfection there is a threatening tendency, namely the danger of trying to live in the tomb of the past. Some of your ancestors were famous, some obscure, all were estimable; but we all know that it doesn't take most men long to throw off whatever is thrust upon them. These honored ancestors of yours are even now calling on you

to really honor them by continuing with your new lights and your increased opportunities, the world regenerating work of which they did all they could. If we are not able to *continue and advance* the work which they began, we shame the past and are miserable failures. Are those true sons who make no progress in thought and act; true daughters who wander in the old lost circle! Gentlemen, it is not four posters, slippery hair cloth, quill pens, or powdered periwigs, curious cues, stately stocks, nor yet brass knockers, fire dogs, bedpans and foot stoves—it is not these extremely interesting but awkward appliances that made our ancestors worthy. Such of them and such of us as are really worthy are so in spite of these material things. If we are not far ahead of the past in worldly wisdom and in the sorrow destroying knowledge of God, let us die now! If our children do not surpass us and if our grandchildren do not surpass them, there are three generations that might better not have been born. The remembrance of the gentleness and almost reverential affection with which I was treated by my elders makes me cherish their memory with supreme devotion. I cannot speak too seriously of duty and privilege; of giving the real honor and appreciative adoration to ancestors, as

against glorifying their weaknesses, making a fetish of their foibles, binding ourselves with the very bonds from which they struggled so hard to escape and worshipping their old clothes instead of their peculiar excellencies. It will not be so very long until we shall have taken our part with the great and silent majority. If we have hidden in a napkin any least of the talents with which the confiding and generous past has entrusted us, we shall listen in vain for the "welcome plaudit."

For all the purposes of earth and heaven, a *better* descendant is the only possible monument to a *good* ancestor. There is a dead material past in whose upas shade we may not linger if we value our bodies or our souls—let the dead past bury its dead; but we will glorify the living, radiant, spiritual past, and we will live in it and in the splendid present.

Before the fire of May 26, 1908, I had a sort of feeling that people here were friendly to me, largely because I was sure that I was friendly to them. It is my proud boast in Chicago that in twenty-two summers in Wiscasset I have never received an unkindness. But now everything is changed. You are no longer friendly, *you are friends*, and I am your devoted adorer. I can never with words or deeds properly

express my feelings in this matter. That you the members of this society should be present at our fire with your buckets and bed screws was but in accordance with your vow when you joined this body; and it saved you from a fine; but that you should be present with that ferocious determination that the house should not burn and that the furniture should not be scratched, *that* was no part of the compact. That men whose hands I have never had the pleasure of grasping, that others who had never heard my name, should have exposed themselves to great inconvenience and to serious danger to save my property, gives me a better opinion of the world then I ever had before, and I always was an optimist. I would rather have had the house and furniture reduced to ashes than that one person should have been hurt. The loss which was sustained was the greatest bargain I ever made. Two carriages, five tons of hay, a precious pile of white birch wood, two buildings! What in return? A revelation of the character of your people; sometime I hope to be entitled to call them my fellow citizens. Did ever man get so much for so little? I cannot make any distinction of persons in expressing my thanks. So far as I can learn they are equally due to every member of the Fire So-

ciety, to each man in Engine Company No. 1, and to each man in Engine Company No. 2, to many not included in any of these three organizations. Everyone tells me how judicious was Mr. Hubbard in directing the energies of the fire fighters, how sagacious Mr. Sewall, how prudent Mr. Patterson, how eager Mr. Erskine, how brave almost to recklessness was Mr. Fuller, standing with his face to the foe like old Horatius. Do not imagine that I make a personal matter of it, that would indeed belittle a truly great situation. The thing that gives me so much joy and fills me with such emotion is that I know now how your hearts beat here in Wiscasset. I know that here is a community of true neighbors, of true heroes, and that it is the greatest privilege of any man's life to have some part and lot in a community that sets up for its guidance such a standard of strength and good will. My fear is not that Wiscasset shall not be good enough for me; but that I shall not be good enough for Wiscasset. Shall we rally and put out all the other fires; smouldering jealousies, corroding customs, little burning feuds? Call out the tubs, bring on your chemicals, and let Mr. Hubbard turn the nozzles on the whole heated mass till not a vestige or a spark remains!

Give us sunshine for shadow, beauty for ashes, love for fear. On to the higher life in which one today shall be worth a thousand yesterdays, and the days that are to be shall be best of all.

If the things that are done away were glorious much more let that which remaineth be glorious.

During the evening Messrs. Bowman, Ballard, Hubbard, William Taylor and Tucker participated in the discussion of the subjects brought up for consideration, and interesting remarks were made by Messrs. Redonnett and Richard H. T. Taylor.

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